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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/032,363	12/21/2001	Fabio Casati	10013644	4968

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EXAMINER

BOYCE, ANDRE D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3623

DATE MAILED: 03/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-23 have been examined.

Drawings

2. Figure 1 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
4. Claims 7, 10-16, and 17-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 7, 16, and 23 recite the limitation "said user" in line 3 of the claims. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 10 is rendered vague and indefinite. The claim recites "said processor for executing a method for performing." This language seems to indicate intended use, therefore it is unclear whether the processor actually performs the steps. Claims 11-16 are rejected based upon the same rationale, since they depend therefrom.

Claim 17 is rendered vague and indefinite. The claim recites "causing a computer system to perform a method performing." This language seems to indicate intended use, therefore it is unclear whether the computer system actually performs the steps. Claims 18-23 are rejected based upon the same rationale, since they depend therefrom.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10-14, 16-21, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Casati et al (eFlow: a Platform for Developing and Managing Composite e-Services, April 2000).

As per claim 1, Casati et al disclose method for performing a context-dependent service comprising (i.e., service provider selects and invokes proper composite service, based up context of customer request, ¶ 8); executing a composite service (i.e., composite e-services, ¶ 5); accessing context information (i.e., customer data, including

name, current address, and destination address, ¶ 9); and automatically incorporating said context information with said composite service (i.e., eMove collects data and notifies the change of address to all parties that have relations to the customer, ¶ 9).

As per claim 2, Casati et al disclose a node definitions repository; process definitions repository; and process execution data (i.e., eFlow provides a repository of processes, nodes, and data type definitions, ¶ 28).

As per claim 3, Casati et al disclose said composite service is an electronically available e-service (i.e., composite e-services, ¶ 5).

As per claim 4, Casati et al disclose said context information is related to a user (i.e., customer data, including name, current address, and destination address, ¶ 9).

As per claim 5, Casati et al disclose said context information is maintained in a context repository (i.e., data type repository, to allow the reuse of the same data type across different service nodes and processes, ¶ 32).

As per claim 7, Casati et al disclose said context information is automatically incorporated with said composite service without requiring action by said user (i.e., most eMove services require general information related to a customer and may be reused directly from the data repository, ¶ 32).

As per claim 8, Casati et al does not explicitly disclose said context dependent service includes a (c)ontext-node (i.e., data collection node, ¶ 29)

Claims 10-14 and 16 are rejected based upon the rejections of claims 1-5 and 7, respectively, since they are the computer system claims corresponding to the method claims.

Claims 17-21 and 23 are rejected based upon the rejections of claims 1-5 and 7, respectively, since they are the computer usable medium claims corresponding to the method claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 6, 15, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Casati et al (eFlow: a Platform for Developing and Managing Composite e-Services, April 2000), in view of Stewart et al (US 2002/0161688).

As per claim 6, Casati et al does not explicitly disclose said context repository is maintained and updated by: a semantic context broker; an application monitor; a device monitor; and an environment monitor. Stewart et al disclose a unified modeling language (i.e., semantic context broker) used to populate repositories with activity diagrams, state charts, and workflow models, wherein the repositories are read at run-time by various components (i.e., an application monitor; a device monitor; and an environment monitor), including off-the-shelf configuration/revision tools (¶ 0315). Both Casati et al and Stewart et al are concerned with effective workflow management, therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include context repository is maintained and

updated by: a semantic context broker; an application monitor; a device monitor; and an environment monitor in Casati et al, as seen in Stewart et al, as an efficient means of updating the repository via a method that can take advantage of off-the-shelf management tools (see Stewart et al, ¶ 0315), making the Casati et al system more robust and flexible.

Claim 15 is rejected based upon the rejection of claim 6, since it is the computer system claim corresponding to the method claim.

Claims 22 is rejected based upon the rejection of claim 6, since it is the computer usable medium claim corresponding to the method claim.

9. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Casati et al (eFlow: a Platform for Developing and Managing Composite e-Services, April 2000), in view of Ramanathan et al (USPN 6,182,136).

As per claim 9, Casati et al does not explicitly disclose said c-node is executed by selecting a process execution time node to be invoked, based on context information. Ramanathan et al disclose defining nodes of various types and indicating their associated dependencies among the nodes (column 8, lines 5-11). Both Casati et al and Ramanathan et al disclose services and service elements that are cooperative in execution of a core service, therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include defining nodes of various types and indicating their associated dependencies in Casati et al, as seen in

Ramanathan et al, as an effective means of determining when a node is to be executed, making Casati et al more robust.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

-Leymann et al (USPN 6976257) disclose managing workload within a workflow management system.

-Sprogis (US 2004/0093608) discloses a digital network system.

-MacLean et al (USPN 6505219) disclose a process management system to describe the flow of work.

-Swartz et al (USPN 6236994) disclose management of information within an enterprise.

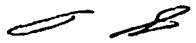
11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andre Boyce whose telephone number is (571) 272-6726. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on (571) 272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3623

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

adb
March 14, 2006


ANDRE BOYCE
PATENT EXAMINER
A.U. 3623